

(Washington, DC) Congressman Alcee L. Hastings (D-Miramar) made the following statement on the killing of Osama bin Laden:

"We should all applaud the President and his administration, military, and our intelligence community, for their heroic efforts to capture and kill Osama bin Laden. The men and women serving in the military, intelligence and counterterrorism communities work courageously on the front lines each day to ensure the security of our nation and the world.

"Osama bin Laden, for 10 years, has held the title of scourge of the earth. I am glad that justice has been served. It is my hope that the families of 9/11 and the East African Embassy bombings can find a little more closure now.

"We must be extremely mindful that Al Qaeda has not been removed, nor has the sentiment of this very dangerous societal element. We must remain ever vigilant.

"The irony of two events on May 1 should not be lost. First, the late Pope John Paul II was beatified and moved closer to Sainthood. He spent his life blazing a path of enlightenment, peace, love, and uplifting humanity. Secondly, bin Laden spent his life lighting a path of murder, deceit, and the destruction of humanity. While one found Sainthood, the other found Satan. It is good that bin Laden no longer plagues the earth and the hope for human kind is that Pope John Paul II would be our exemplar of goodness."

Congressman Alcee L. Hastings serves as Senior Member of the House Rules Committee, Ranking Democratic Member of the U.S. Helsinki Commission, and Democratic Chairman of the Florida Delegation.

###